

# MAYOR & COUNCIL AGENDA COVER SHEET

**MEETING DATE:**

September 24, 2007

**CALL TO PODIUM:**

Leigh Henry, President  
Friends of Wells/Robertson  
House, Inc.

**RESPONSIBLE STAFF:**

Crystal Carr

**AGENDA ITEM:**

(please check one)

	Presentation
	Proclamation/Certificate
	Appointment
	Public Hearing
	Historic District
	Consent Item
	Ordinance
	Resolution
	Policy Discussion
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Work Session Discussion Item
	Other:

**PUBLIC HEARING HISTORY:**

(Please complete this section if agenda item  
is a public hearing)

Introduced	
Advertised	
Hearing Date	
Record Held Open	
Policy Discussion	

**TITLE:**

Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc.; Accomplishments in  
FY 2007 and Plans Under an Expanded Mission for FY 2008

**SUPPORTING BACKGROUND:**

Trustees of The Friends of Wells/Robertson House, Inc. have undergone an extensive internal strategic analysis during the last ten months. We have reviewed our policies, processes, financial position and have made some major business decisions, and will continue to do so throughout this year. These changes, we believe, will make us a more efficient, effective, and impactful organization.

In light of our changes and our growth, the Nonprofit comes to the Mayor and City Council to share our plans for next year as well as highlight our extraordinary accomplishments and contributions during the past year.

Specifically, the Nonprofit will review its capital and programmatic extensions and enhancements to the Wells/Robertson House program. Friends of Wells/Robertson House also will present its new expanded mission and program plans for this fiscal year.

**DESIRED OUTCOME:**

Deliver presentation to the Mayor and City Council.



**FY 2007 Accomplishments;  
FY 2008 Plans Under an Expanded Mission**

**Mayor and City Council Presentation**

**September 24, 2007**

**FWRH**



## FWRH Trustees

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Stanley Alster

Luis Martinez

Marilyn Balcombe

Brita Monaco

Crystal Carr

Ron Perrell

Carol Gimmel

Linda Plummer

Leigh Henry

Bill Schlossenberg

Nancy Hislop

James E. Savitz

Blanche Keller

Marion Thompson

Jim Maleady

Ken Weiner

Mindi Jacobson, Executive Director



## History

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- 1987 City bought House.
- 1988 City begins program.
- 1994 FWRH created to tap into funding sources including food banks and the Fannie Mae Foundation.
- 1995 FWRH participates in the Walk for the Help the Homeless (ongoing program).



## 1994 -2006: City Serves as Incubator for Nonprofit

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The City provided infrastructure including:

- Professional Support. The City's Director of Human Services also served as Nonprofit Executive Director.
- Office space, meeting room space, computers, supplies & postage

As a result, FWRH functioned with little financial pressure due to extremely low overhead costs.



## FY 2007: A Watershed Year

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2006

Former Gaithersburg Human Services Director retires; FWRH assumes responsibility for all administrative expenses.

1/1/2006

FWRH hires new Executive Director, thereby greatly increasing overhead costs.

2007

Given the fiduciary responsibility to balance administrative costs with programmatic initiatives, Board undertakes comprehensive internal analysis to review financial position, mission and direction.



## FY 2007 Accomplishments:

### Scholarship Program for Residents and Alumni

- FWRH secured grants from the Viragh Family and Montgomery College foundations to create a 5-year scholarship program for residents and alumni of the W/R House.
- Paid tuition and fees allowing residents and alumni to attend Montgomery College and study various disciplines.
- Secured County Grant for new computers to be installed during FY 2008 at the W/R House to support the scholarship program.

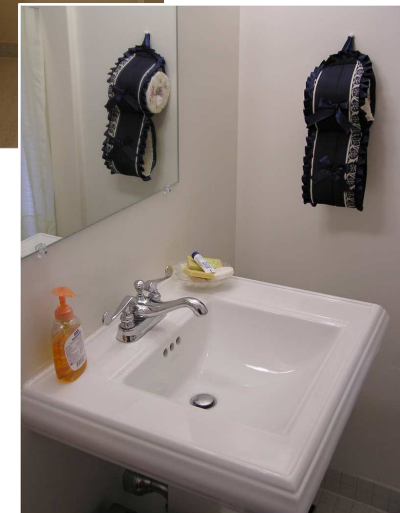


## FY 2007 Accomplishments: Major Renovation of Wells/Robertson House

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Viragh Family Grant  
funded:

- Two new bathrooms
- Plumbing, electrical and ventilation upgrades
- New mattresses
- Freezer
- 2 bedroom dressers







## FY 2007 Accomplishments:

### Increased Support for Residents and Alumni

- Funded Resident attendance at a Narcotic Anonymous Conference.
- Funded Picnic and Activities during September Recovery Month for Residents and Alumni.
- Secured funding source for FY 2008 installation of new flooring and appliances at DeSellum House, where male alumni of W/R House live.



## 2007 Accomplishments: Educational Efforts

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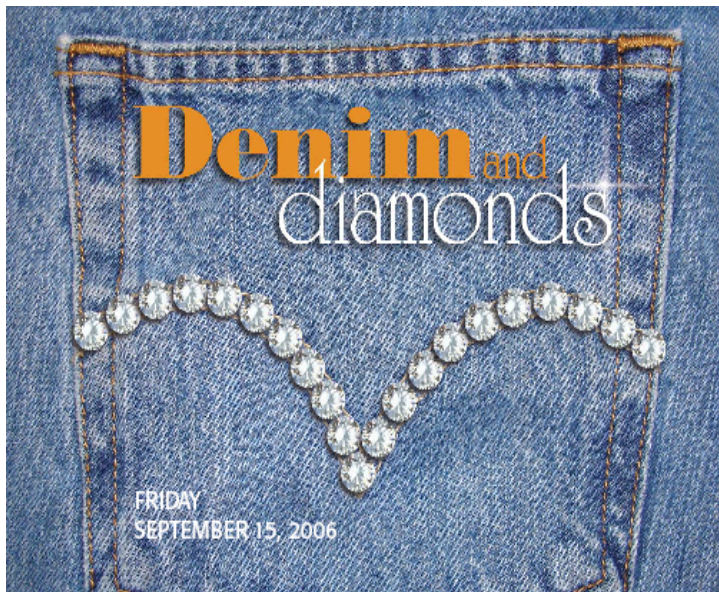
- Participated in education and outreach efforts through Fannie Mae Walk at 12 local schools and churches.
- Provided additional support to Gaithersburg Elementary.

FWRH was awarded Fannie Mae Bonus Dollars based on these efforts.



## FY 2007 Accomplishment: Increased Outreach

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Raised Awareness of the issues of Homelessness and Chemical Addiction:

- Denim and Diamonds Gala
- W/R House featured during NBC-4: 12 Days of Christmas series.
- Numerous speaking engagements including Montgomery Village Rotary Club, GGCC breakfast.



## FY 2007 Decision:

### Custodial Board or Expanded Mission?

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During a strategic retreat, Trustees explored ways to achieve a proper balance between overhead and programming. Trustees were faced with a choice:

- **Become a custodial board** with limited to no Staff.

OR

- **Expand the Nonprofit's mission**, develop independent programs, and become a more impactful organization.



## FY 2007: Vote to Expand Mission

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Trustees unanimously voted to expand and then adopted Vision and Mission Statements:

**Vision Statement:** Our vision is to help break the cycle of homelessness and addiction within our community while bringing hope, dignity, and purpose to the lives of vulnerable individuals.

**Mission Statement:** To support, independently and collaboratively, a **continuum of prevention and intervention programs and services** to reduce chronic addiction and homelessness in the Gaithersburg community.



## FY 2008: Impact of Expanded Mission

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### Trustees have voted to:

- Provide an Annual Grant to the City to enhance programs at Wells/Robertson and DeSillum houses and to support City initiatives to reach homeless, chemically addicted adults.
- Support future City initiatives designed to reduce homelessness and chemical addiction.
- Initiate a new program designed to strengthen the nonprofit's educational and outreach programming and to reduce homelessness and chemical addiction among vulnerable youth aged 16 to 25.



## FY 2008: FWRH Grant to City of Gaithersburg

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FWRH Trustees Granted \$53,100 to City for:

- P/T City Bilingual Evening Relief Counselor
- Career Development for Residents
- W/R House Community Building Activities
- Two-day Retreat for City Staff
- Recovery/ After-care programming
- Long-term medical detox for up to 3 individuals
- Recovery Month Activities
- Recovery Conferences for Residents



## Request for a Needs Assessment

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The success of the Wells/Robertson House is widely recognized. A preliminary review by a FWRH committee suggested that the number of people in need of housing and treatment has increased dramatically and exceeds capacity.

FWRH recommends the Mayor and Council support a Staff review of:

- Needs of homeless, chemically addicted adults in Gaithersburg
- Adequacy of W/R House facility and program

Staff recommendations be developed for Mayor and Council consideration.





## Additional Support for Wells/Robertson House Program

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The Board is proud of the accomplishments made possible by the collaboration between the Nonprofit and the City and looks forward to supporting future initiatives aimed at addressing the needs of those suffering with homelessness and chemical addiction.



## Overview of the New Initiative

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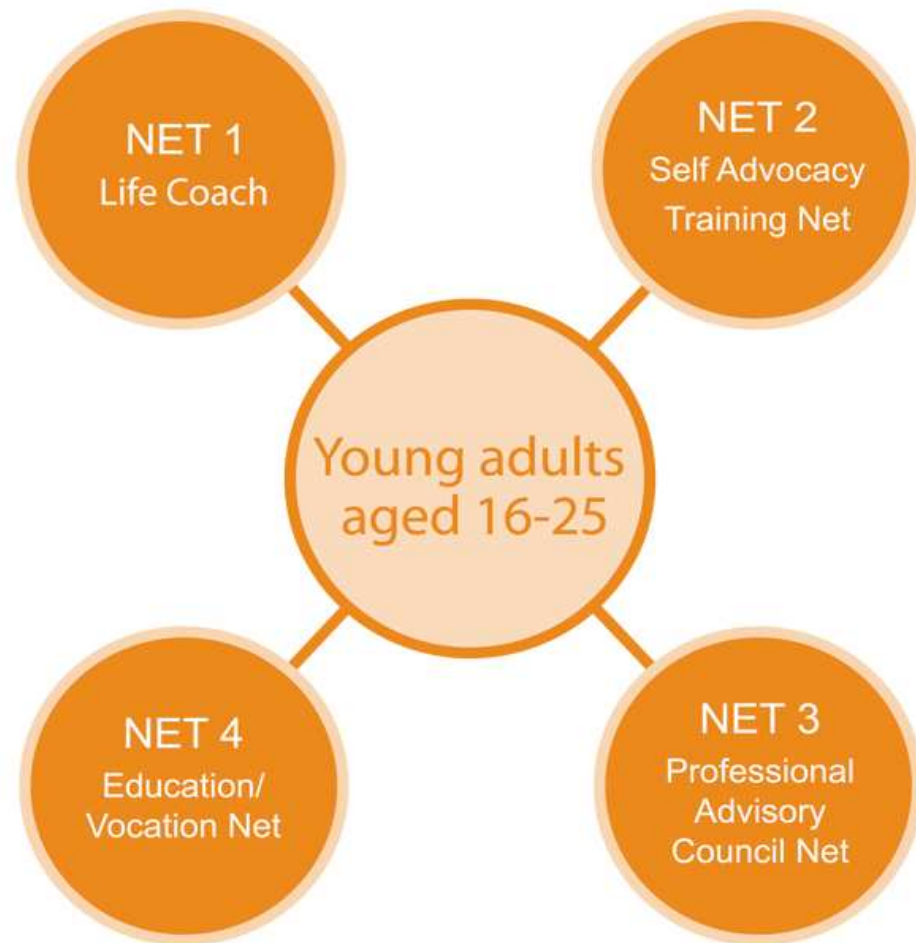
The Supportive Services NET is designed to address the **prevention** end of the continuum of services under our mission.

### Target Populations:

- Youth “aging out” of foster care.
- Young adults living in housing provided by the Coalition for the Homeless (e.g. Seneca Heights), Greentree, Dwelling Place.
- Youth in recovery.
- Residents and Alumni of the Wells/Robertson Program and their children.



## “A La Carte” Offering of Supportive Services to Vulnerable Young Adults





## FY 2008: Hopes for the Future

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FY 2007 was a transitional year for FWRH

FY 2008 promises to be even better. The Trustees look forward to:

- Following the impact of its Grant to the City to extend programming to better address the needs of homeless, chemically addicted adults.
- Exploring additional opportunities to reduce the impact of homelessness and chemical addiction in Gaithersburg.
- Expanding the Nonprofit's educational and outreach programming through the NET Program.



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FWRH thanks the Mayor and City Council for  
Their Continued Support of Our  
Organization and Our Programs